

## The type of the genus *Odynerus* Latreille (Hymenoptera, Vespoidea)

by

O. W. RICHARDS and J. VAN DER VECHT

The nomenclature of the genus *Odynerus* Latr. and its subdivisions has for some time been in confusion owing to disagreement over what species is the type of the genus. It now appears that an overlooked paper may decide the question with some finality.

LATREILLE (1802, Hist. nat. Crust. Ins. 3 : 362) founded his genus *Odynerus* for two species: "*Vespa muraria*; *spinipes* F.". Reading LATREILLE's work shows that this is intended to be a citation of two Fabrician species of *Vespa*. FABRICIUS did not actually describe these species but referred to *Vespa muraria* Linnaeus and *V. spinipes* Linnaeus. FABRICIUS refers to these two wasps in four works antedating 1802: Syst. Entom.: 368, 1775; Spec. Insect. 1 : 464, 1781; Mantissa Insect. 1 : 290, 1787; Entom. Syst. 2 : 267, 268, 1793. In these works FABRICIUS refers not to LINNAEUS, 1758 but to "Syst. Nat. 11 : 950". Judging by the page quoted this is in fact a reference to Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1767 and his descriptions in the four works mentioned above differ only very slightly from what was written in LINNAEUS, 1767 : 950.

LATREILLE (1804, Sonnini's Buffon 13 : 347) states that his so-called *Vespa muraria* is the same as the species whose habits are described by RÉAUMUR (1742, Mém. serv. Hist. Ins. 6 : 285, pl. 26). RÉAUMUR's insect is certainly not *V. muraria* of LINNAEUS but *V. spinipes* L.

WESTWOOD (1840, Intro. mod. Classif. Ins. 2 (synopsis) : 83) nevertheless cited *Vespa muraria* L. as the type of *Odynerus* and notes (1840 : 240, footnote) that he sent the type of *Vespa muraria* from the Linnaean collection in London to WESMAEL in Belgium and established that it was a different species from *V. spinipes*, as is also stated by WESMAEL (1836, Bull. Acad. Brux. 3) and DE SAUSSURE (1852, Monographie des guêpes 1 : 224). However, the real point at issue is whether LATREILLE misidentified *Vespa muraria*, not whether LINNAEUS' *Vespa muraria* is the same as his *V. spinipes*.

Most authors until very recent times did not trouble about the type of *Odynerus* but divided it into a number of subgenera often themselves without designated types and no one of them being called *Odynerus* s.s. However, BEQUAERT (1918, Bull. Amer. Mus. nat. Hist. 39 : 290) noted that *Vespa muraria* of LATREILLE was different from *V. muraria* F. or L. and really the same as *V. spinipes*. The genus *Odynerus* was therefore effectively founded on a single species *V. spinipes* L. which is the type. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature was asked in 1937 to confirm the decision and made a statement (1950, Bull. zool. Nomencl. 5 (4—6) : 109) agreeing with it though not in the form of an official opinion. Thus it can be held, as it has been by BLÜTHGEN, that the matter was not finally settled.

The position as regards usage appears to be as follows: DE SAUSSURE, SCHMIEDENKNECHT, VON SCHULTHESS and BERLAND in works on the world, C. European, Swiss and French fauna divide *Odynerus* into subgenera without indicating any

types and without denoting any subgenus *Odynerus* s.s. BEQUAERT (*loc. cit.* 1918), GIORDANI SOIKA, BOHART and RICHARDS treat *Vespa spinipes* as the type of *Odynerus*. C. G. THOMSON, DE BEAUMONT and BLÜTHGEN treat *Vespa muraria* L. as the type. BLÜTHGEN's work (1961) is the most important recent paper on European Vespidae.

It must now be noted that SHUCKARD (1837, *Mag. nat. Hist.*, n.s. 1 : 494) fixed the type of *Odynerus* before WESTWOOD did in 1840. His statement is really quite unambiguous. "*Odynerus* Latr., type *V. muraria* ♀ Latr. ♂ *V. spinipes* L. (*Epipone* Kirby, Steph., Curt. *Oplopus* Wesm.)". SHUCKARD is clearly indicating that the *Vespa muraria* which LATREILLE included in *Odynerus* is the misidentified ♀ of *V. spinipes* L. and not *V. muraria* L. This arrangement seems to be covered by article 70 (b) of the rules of nomenclature. It is therefore clear that the type of *Odynerus* Latr. is *V. spinipes* L. (♀ = *V. muraria* sensu LATREILLE, nec LINNAEUS, nec FABRICIUS).

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## Déplacements larvaires d'*Acanthoscelides obtectus* Say (Col. Bruchides)

### I. - Cas d'une seule couche de grains

par

Y. DE LUCA

A. — Objet de l'experimentation. Etude de la distribution des déplacements larvaires d'*Acanthoscelides obtectus* Say issus d'un nombre d'oeufs déterminé mis en position définie.